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Dear Wild Rainbow Trout Enthusiasts,

Thank you for your willingness to dedicate your time in support of Alaska's wild rainbow. I am aware it may not be all sacrifice as there will be some quality fishing on the legendary Upper Kenai. I am truly sorry I was not able to join you for all the activities of this important event but I was called back to Washington, D.C. for a hearing on the Alaska Highway gas line.

I would like to share some thoughts with you concerning the future of one of Alaska's most treasured natural resource assets-our wild rainbow trout. It is one of the world's most universally honored and admired sports fish. Alaska celebrates its abundance in our rivers and streams. We have been blessed with a magnificent habitat and abundant food source even though we are situated at the northern most edge of the rainbows' natural range. Thanks to your conservation ethic and the protective management of the Department of Fish and Game, the stock of wild rainbow are healthy.

Rather than rest on the laurels of success, I believe it is time to look ahead and take the necessary steps for further protection and enhancement of this resource. That is the purpose of asking you to come together as knowledgeable advocates of our wild rainbow. I would like your thoughts concerning habitat protection, management plans ensuring adequate food source, harvesting regulations, and the use of the least abusive fishing gear.

Specific issues to be considered would be the adequacy of in stream water flow and streamside habitat protection. The Board of Fish should adopt management plans establishing the necessary salmon escapement to sustain populations of wild rainbow trout. The Board of Fish should adopt a statewide sport fishing catch and release regulation for wild rainbow trout with the exception of certain allowable subsistence customary and traditional retention. Finally, there should be regulations allowing only single barbless hook artificial fly lures.

All of these and any additional recommendations you would like considered could be a part of an Alaska Wild Rainbow Trout Conservation Initiative. This effort should be given broad public presentation to generate grassroots support to be presented to the appropriate policies bodies for adoption.

I am excited about the potential progress that we can make in continuing Alaska's unique position as the home of wild rainbow trout.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tony Knowles".  
Tony Knowles  
Governor